OAKLAND, OREGON

Preliminary Notes on ANNOTATED Photo by Patrick and Nelson c 1900

Wally Dunsmoor

Excerpted and summarized from correspondence, July 2025

This annotated photograph of Oakland, Oregon, was prepared by Wally Dunsmoor as part of a broader research effort currently in development. The image, looking southeast from just below the Dear farm, will ultimately be included in a compilation tentatively titled *The Baker House Project*.

Dunsmoor named the project for Dr. Baker, who originally built a house near his grist mill before relocating and expanding it on his Donation Land Claim. The research traces historical ties among the Baker, Young, Vail, and Dear/Deakins families-documenting their movements westward and their settlements in the Umpqua Valley.

Additional themes in development include overland migration routes such as the Meek and Elliott Cutoffs, the Barlow Trail, and the role of Pennsylvania emigrants in shaping early communities. Dunsmoor's work seeks to connect these larger migration patterns with individual family histories through land records, photographs, and personal memoirs.